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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT Rinderpest Outbreak near Irkutsk/Cattle Jaundice/
Dirty Methods in Cattle Treatment/Poor Application
of Research Results

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there were and still are outbreaks of rinderpest. It was well known to all agriculturalists in the USSR, that the only major USSR region which has not had outbreaks of this plague was the Ukraine. [redacted] Sovkhoz in the Yenisei area [1933-37] continually received pamphlets from the authorities in which there were detailed explanations of what to do in the event of rinderpest outbreaks. In some of the pamphlets it was stated that outbreaks of rinderpest were taking place in south central Siberia. [redacted] never had an outbreak in the Yenisei area, but in 1936 [redacted]

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there was at that time [1936] a rinderpest outbreak in the Bratsky [phonetic] Raion, 40 kms south of Irkutsk, [redacted] In 1934 [redacted] at the Sovkhoz in the Kuban region, near Stavropol, [redacted] received pamphlets describing the steps to be taken against rinderpest. There were no outbreaks in the Kuban region, however. The rumors were that rinderpest outbreaks were

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the outbreaks "east of the Elbrus" were spreading into the USSR

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the outbreaks were certainly occurring, but had their origin on both sides of the border. [redacted] rinderpest had not been eradicated from the USSR by early 1943. [redacted] in late 1942 and early 1943 it was still well known to professional agronomists that rinderpest outbreaks were occurring in the country.

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[redacted] only vaccines were produced, and there were no other anti-rinderpest medicines. The vaccines were produced in Voronezh and Sverdlovsk, in quantities that were quite large but still insufficient for the control of epidemics. One of the main problems was the slow distribution system. This applied to all animal treatment materials. [redacted] once it took [redacted] one whole year to get three barrels of creolin, a sheep dip. On another occasion [redacted] unless [redacted] supplied the empty barrels [redacted] would get no creolin at all.

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Yes, there was one big outbreak of jaundice in 1939, in the general area between Armavir and Stavropol. A ninety-day quarantine was imposed by the veterinarians which stopped the outbreak before it got beyond control.

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one farm in the area 93 head of young stock died out of a total of 1,500 head of young stock. This farm was 18 kms south of Stavropol. Some of the loss, as usual, was due to primitive and dirty methods of vaccination.

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Dirty and primitive methods were accepted as routine and normal by the veterinarians. This was due to the fact that almost all of the assistants to the trained veterinarians were young men who were taken from the ranks of the Komsomol and given technical training. These men, becoming "lay" assistants, were charged with carrying out the orders of the veterinarians. In virtually every case these assistants were lazy and ignorant; their interests were political rather than scientific. [redacted] one typical example. On a farm near Stavropol, in 1939, the chief veterinarian ordered his field assistant to make up a two-percent solution of creolin for the sheep dip. The assistant, a Party member, made the solution 12 percent strength. As a result 130 fine Marino sheep were killed. Even the dogs would not touch the bodies of these sheep. As a punishment, the assistant was promoted to a better job in Krasnodar. The above is a perfect example of the way in which the political system holds down the veterinary standards in the USSR. Good basic research is being accomplished, in agronomy and veterinary science, probably research which compares favorably with that in the US. But, because the research results have to be carried out by the Party oafs, the practical application thereof is always poor and slipshod. The top scientists in the field are unable to change this situation.

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Turning to veterinary science again, the use of ignorant, indifferent Komsomol men had a great effect upon artificial insemination results. It was very common to have less than 50% "takes" in artificial insemination, because the work was done by the lazy and ignorant Party men. They took so much time getting around to examining the semen for viability, that much of it died. Again, they often packed it too cold, and in dirty containers, which also caused much of it to die.

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